

SDMS US EPA REGION V -1

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1000910



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HUNTSVILLE DIVISION
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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FROM: CHUCK TWING

PHONE NO. 205-955-4584

Sheila,
This is the 1976 report and
some ~~portably~~ illegible newspaper
clippings.

Chuck Twing

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP		ACTION	
2 COL STAHL	INITIALS	DATE	CIRCULATE
1 COL DALL	INITIALS	DATE	COORDINATION
<i>Task Dir A info</i>	INITIALS	DATE	FILE
<i>May Silver</i>	INITIALS	DATE	INFORMATION
	INITIALS	DATE	NOTE AND RETURN
	INITIALS	DATE	FOR COM - VERIFICATION
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REMARKS

ATTACHED IS THE REPORT OF TRIP TO WEST CHESTER, OHIO.

INCLOSURE 2 CONTAINS PICTURES OF THE EXCAVATION OPERATION. NOTE COMMENT ON THE BACK OF EACH PICTURE.

Excellent work & report

Carl -

Shank -

OK

Do NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, clearances, and similar actions.

FROM MAJ CARL V. GLOVER
CDR, USA TECH ESC CEN

DATE
1 JUN 76

PHONE
3044

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US Army Technical Escort Center, Edgewood Arsenal
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010

SAREA-TE

24 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Trip #19-76; Response to the West Chester, Ohio, Chemical Land Fill Incident

1. Purpose of travel. At 1635 hours, 6 May 1976, LTC Ryder, Director of Military Support, DCSOPS, DA, tasked the USA Technical Escort Center (USATEC) to provide a Chemical/Explosive Ordnance Disposal Assessment Team to EPA (West Chester, Ohio) for the purpose of assessing the scope of the problem and assist in planning actions to alleviate the problem.

2. Preliminary information. Following an industrial chemical fire in the Cincinnati area, Ohio EPA officials learned the remaining contents of the tank car involved were to be disposed at the land fill location involved in this incident. Ohio EPA officials, upon learning of this industrial chemical disposal site, went to it for the purpose of conducting an inspection as it was not an approved facility. After a brief inspection of the site and prior to obtaining samples at the chemical disposal lagoon, the Ohio EPA officials were asked by the owner to leave the property. Upon the return of Ohio EPA officials with a search warrant, they were informed by the owner that there may be buried on the location nerve gas, mustard gas, cyanide gas, white phosphorus and incendiary and explosive devices. Upon learning this, the Ohio EPA officials withdrew from the site until qualified assistance could be obtained. The request for assistance was made to USEPA to DA who tasked USATEC to provide assistance.

3. Itinerary.

9 May 76 - 0900 hrs, depart EWA, MD
1500 hrs, arrive West Chester, OH

12 May 76 - 1300 hrs, depart West Chester, OH
1745 hrs, arrive EWA, MD

24 May 1976

SARFA-TR
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Trip #19-76; Response to the West Chester,
Ohio, Chemical Land Fill Incident

4. USATEC team personnel.

MAJ Carl V. Glover, 235-56-4707, USATEC
1LT William O. Henry, 316-58-3773, TED, NAAP
SFC Herschel Harris, 221-24-6043, USATEC
SSG Charles W. Jewell, 332-36-1258, TED, NAAP
SSG Richard Mahan, 263-84-3045, USATEC
SP5 William J. Kowalski, 030-38-9835, USATEC
SP4 Stanley R. Mulherin, 546-52-5598, USATEC

5. Individuals contacted.

- a. Mr. Russ Diffenbach, Region V EPA (Federal)
- b. Mr. Charles W. Forsthoff, Chief, Solid Waste Disposal Office,
State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.
- c. Mr. Allan Franks, Ohio EPA Public Relations
- d. Sheriff Walton, Sheriff of Butler County, OH

6. Significant discussion/actions. A sequence of events is attached
as inclosure 1. A summary of the important actions is presented below:

a. MAJ Glover and LT Henry were briefed at 0900 hours, 10 May 76,
by the Ohio EPA, USEPA, and Butler County law enforcement officials on
activity at the site. The chemical lagoon had been covered by several
feet of sand and gravel and domestic refuse. At 1400 hours, MAJ Glover
and LT Henry made an aerial reconnaissance of the site in an Ohio State
National Guard helicopter. The reconnaissance showed that much at
the land fill had been levelled and a mound of gravel and refuse some
25-35 feet in depth had been placed over the chemical lagoon.

b. After verification of qualifications of the USATEC team, a
search warrant was issued by the Butler County Common Pleas Court.

c. At 1900 hrs, 10 May 76, a meeting was held with USEPA officials,
MAJ Glover, Mr. Skinner and his legal counsel present. Following this
meeting, MAJ Glover met with Mr. Skinner and his legal counsel to dis-
cuss the contents of the land fill. It was learned that the chemicals

SAREA-TE

24 May 1976

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Trip #19-76; Response to the West Chester, Ohio, Chemical Land Fill Incident

were not the toxic chemicals listed in the preliminary information but were commercial chemicals used by the Public Health Service and had been disposed of several years ago. Some explosives had been disposed of on the site by detonation or burning. A variety of industrial chemical wastes had been disposed of on the site. A search warrant was served on the morning of 11 May 76 by Butler County officials. The USATEC team was taken to the area by the owner's sons. The entire land fill area was surveyed for any signs of toxic chemicals, military hardware, or explosive devices. None were found. The Ohio EPA, USEPA, and a local supporting contractor with a bulldozer and backhoe came into the land fill area. M8 Chemical Alarms were set up at the upwind control point. Equipment operators were provided and fitted with M9 Field Protective Masks and instructed in their use and emergency procedures. The USATEC team provided continuous monitoring of the excavation operation for military chemical or explosive devices; none were detected. The chemical lagoon was uncovered approximately 30 feet below the surface. EPA officials obtained samples of industrial chemicals which had been dumped in the lagoon. The USATEC team continued to monitor the operation until back-filling was accomplished.

7. Conclusion. No evidence of disposal of military chemical or explosive items was detected at the site by this operation. Discussion with the owner/operator of the land fill supports this conclusion.

8. Recommendations.

a. The USA Technical Escort Center continue to be tasked by appropriate headquarters to provide this type of assistance to maintain a goodwill relationship with the civilian community. CK

b. The USA Technical Escort Center continue to maintain their expertise in the area of rendering assistance involving commercial chemical accidents/incidents in civilian communities. CK

3 Incl

1. Sequence of Events
2. Photographs of the Excavation Operation
3. Newspaper Releases

Carl V. Glover
CARL V. GLOVER
MAJ, CMIC
Commanding

Sequence of Significant Events:

1. 9 May 76 - 1500 hrs - arrived at Holiday Inn, Ohio Rt 4, near Hamilton, Ohio. This is the location that EPA officials and USA Technical Escort Center teams stayed throughout the incident.
2. 9 May 76 - 1800 hrs - meeting with Mr. Diffenbach to be briefed on the background and current situation.
3. 10 May 76 - 0900 hrs - meeting with Federal and State EPA officials on the course of actions.
4. 10 May 76 - 1530 hrs - Search Warrant was obtained by Ohio EPA lawyers to enter the Skinner property at 0800 hrs, 11 May 76.
5. 10 May 76 - 1900-2340 hrs - attended a meeting with EPA officials, representatives from Chem Dyne Corp. lawyers for the Skinner's and the Skinner family.
6. 11 May 76 - 0830 hrs - Sheriff Walton served the Search Warrant to Mr. Skinner at the entrance to his landfill.
7. 11 May 76 - 0845-1045 hrs - USA Tech Escort Center team, using mine and chemical agent detectors, searched the landfill for any potential hazardous explosive or chemical materials.
8. 11 May 76 - 1115 hrs - EPA started excavation of the burial pits.
9. 11 May 76 - 1115-1345 hrs - liquid sludge and drums uncovered. EPA officials took samples of the sludge and drums.
10. 11 May 76 - 1545-1620 hrs - excavated pits recovered.
11. 11 May 76 - 1630 hrs - depart Skinner's landfill.
12. 12 May 76 - 0800-1100 hrs - cleaned and serviced all USA Technical Escort Center equipment and protective clothing.
13. 12 May 76 - 1300 hrs - departed West Chester, Ohio.

Encl 1

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL HEADER SHEET

For use of this form, see AFM 25-11; the presiding agency is OORCA

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REMARKS

(1) Newspaper articles of the period - owners of property appear to
source of information.

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\$400 an hour job

West Chester dump probed

By MIKE GRAMM
Journal-News Writer

WEST CHESTER—Digging operations ordered by the Environmental Protection Agency were under way today in an attempt to learn what, if any, dangerous materials might be buried in the Skinner landfill near this southeast Butler County community.

Sheriff Robert Walton and his deputies escorted a caravan of vehicles containing federal and state investigators to the dump about 8 a.m. and served a warrant for the search on Albert Skinner, owner.

The group included EPA officials and U.S. Army technical experts from Maryland who conferred with authorities here Monday to determine steps to be taken in investigating the dump.

Skinner pledged cooperation to the probe when presented with the search warrant today. He accompanied the Army technicians to the area, later the interior of the dumpsite, to make a survey of the excavating team.

About 10:30 a.m. a bulldozer and steam shovel transferred from Schaeffer Construction Co. (Cl-



After sheriff's deputies were denied entry

Deadly Army gas buried in Hamilton dump

619
The Army needs evidence of gas with special instrument brought in, another search will be obtained.

STANBARD: Butler County Sheriff's deputies and environmental health experts obtained a search warrant Monday afternoon to enter a Hamilton County dump today and conduct a search for possible chemical weapons.

Butler County Sheriff's deputies and environmental health experts obtained a search warrant Monday afternoon to enter a Hamilton County dump today and conduct a search for possible chemical weapons.

Slater has a reputation as of an eccentric and once the County prosecutor out of a with a shotgun when the tried to investigate some allegations, according to one county

An Army chemical expert is scheduled to accompany them after the dump opened this afternoon. The U.S. Army has had a long history of dealing with chemical weapons. The Army has been involved in a long history of dealing with chemical weapons.

The Army has advised us that they are not sure if any of the gas is still in the dump. The Army has advised us that they are not sure if any of the gas is still in the dump.

Walton has pledged protection Army and EPA officials to and repudiate on the Slater plea

THE INCIDENT AT the latest in a series of incidents in several weeks ago when the

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DAYTON DAI

Tuesday, May 11, 1992

Hamiltonville pond

Hamiltonville pond

Hamiltonville pond

Hamiltonville pond

denied entry

gas buried in Hamilton dump, owner says

detect chemical

He went to the lake dirt aprons that Chem Dyne had been dumping chemical wastes

dozer parked at said was broke in debris from Then he told people cyanide there

He had not to do he called the

SUMMARY: Butler County Sheriff's Office and environmental health agency obtained a search warrant Monday afternoon to take a Butler County dump where and examine it for potentially dangerous waste deposits.

An Army chemical expert is expected to accompany them after the dump operator told authorities that the dump had buried thousands of pounds of gas there. The Army has previously searched a Dover white metal recycling plant.

Army for help. The business of the Army Chemical Center in Maryland arrived Monday.

The Army has advised us that they cannot state with any degree of certainty that dangerous material may not have been buried on the site several

years ago and there is some circumstantial indications that there are still gas in the tree," Wadsworth said.

TODAY'S SEARCH warrant allows Wadsworth to look for only the chemical waste samples. The sheriff said that if

the Army finds evidence of gas, it will be removed by a company with a license with special instructions. It will be done at the dump for a number brought in. Another search warrant will be obtained.

Wadsworth has a reputation as a conservative and even a father of the chemical industry. He is a former Chem Dyne employee.

Wadsworth has a reputation as a conservative and even a father of the chemical industry. He is a former Chem Dyne employee. According to one county source, Wadsworth has been in the area for several years. Wadsworth has been in the area for several years. Wadsworth has been in the area for several years.

THE INCIDENT AT the dump is the latest in a series of incidents that have occurred in the area. Several weeks ago when Chem Dyne was

DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Section Two

Thursday, April 11, 1991

The Centerville School Board considered 26 alternatives to relieve their crowded classrooms Monday night, including year-round schools, split sessions and "rental" classrooms.

The Centerville School Board considered 26 alternatives to relieve their crowded classrooms Monday night, including year-round schools, split sessions and "rental" classrooms.

and U.S. Army technical experts from Maryland who conferred with authorities here Monday to determine steps to be taken in investigating the dump.

Skinner pledged cooperation in the probe when presented with the search warrant today. He agreed to allow Army technicians to enter the interior of the dump to conduct a survey of the site.

A bulldozer and a backhoe were brought from Schenck Construction Co., Cincinnati, to clear the entrance to the dump and to remove the large rock that was blocking the entrance to the excavation site.

EPA officials would not say specifically what they are looking for in the investigation which they said is expected to last about a week.

"We've asked for a plat indicating where the material may exist in the dump, but so far none has been made available," said Walton.

The excavation was delayed last week after Skinner advised the sheriff that potentially dangerous substances were in the landfill. The sheriff called off the probe at that point, saying the safety of citizens was the first priority and requesting more expert information about the disposal area.

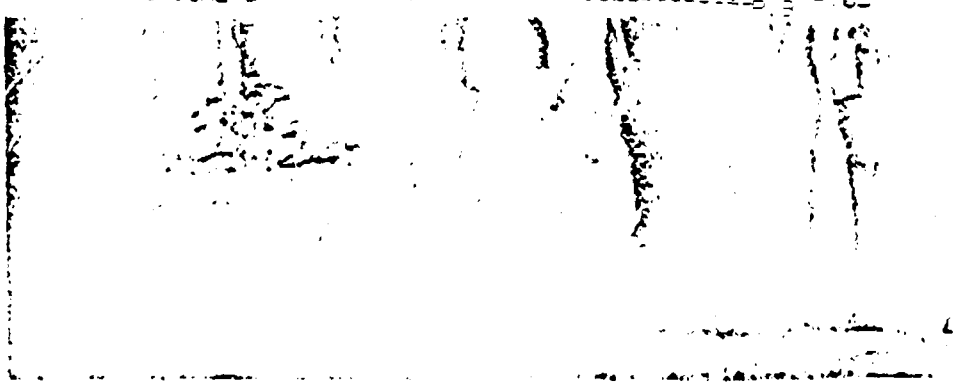
Forsthoft said the EPA investigation follows recent complaints made by the Butler County Health Department and City of Hamilton over possible disposing of questionable materials at the Skinner site.

The excavation was delayed last week after Skinner advised the sheriff that potentially dangerous substances were in the landfill. The sheriff called off the probe at that point, saying the safety of citizens was the first priority and requesting more expert information about the disposal area.

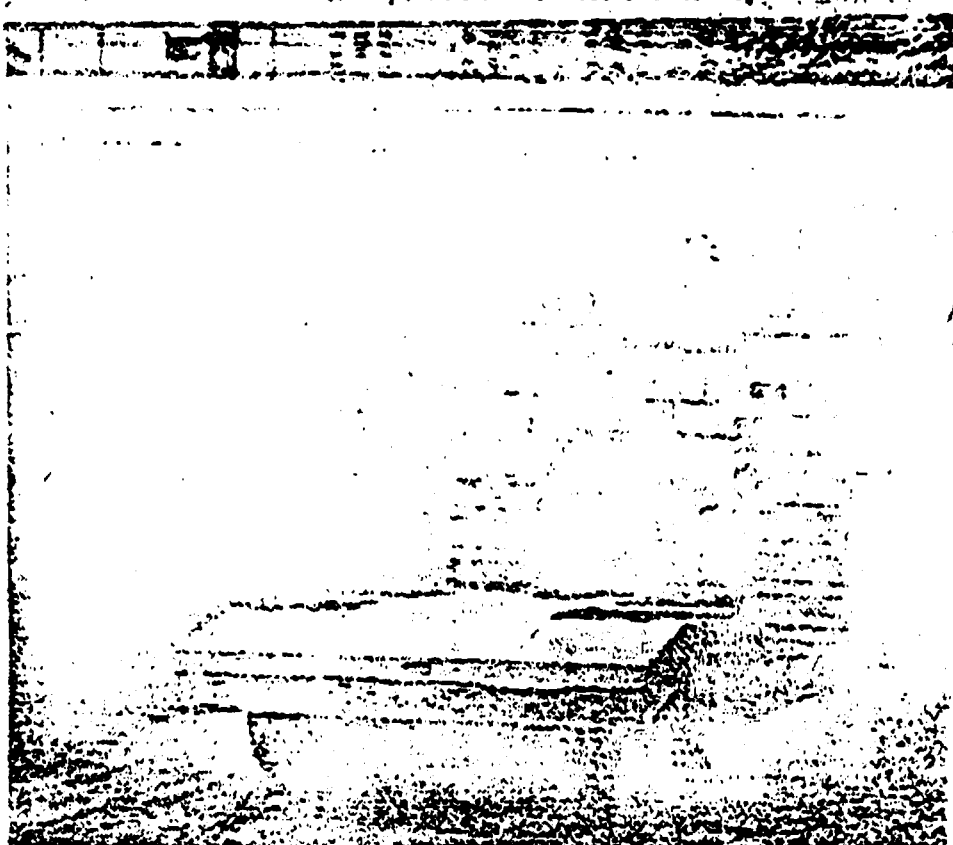
In an interview Monday afternoon with Sheriff Walton, the Journal-News learned that owner Skinner has advised authorities that his

ANCOHISTORICAL OFFICE TO

11-10-73



Investigators and landfill officials talk things over at Skinner dump entrance this morning prior to start of inspection at the West Chester disposal site.



Heavy excavating equipment moves down lane into Skinner landfill for the start of digging operations today after area had been cleared by experts. Journal-News Photo

"We've asked for a plat indicating where the material may exist in the dump, but so far none has been made available," said Walton.

The sheriff and his top aides met Monday morning with state and federal EPA officials and the commander of a detachment from the U.S. Army Chemical Center in Maryland. Both Walton and the environmental specialists requested the assistance of the Army technicians.

"The Army has advised us that they cannot state with any degree of certainty that dangerous materials may not have been buried on this site several years ago," Walton said. "And there is some circumstantial indications that these allegations

ville (now closed) were reportedly dumped in Skinner's landfill several years ago.

When asked whether or not a move would be made to close the landfill, Walton said such a decision would be predicated on the "type of material found in the dump" and the owner's cooperation "or lack of."

"Co the la of."

"If stand who that and"

Cur
MU-Hamilton

Dr. M. Douglas Road has been He